

Examiner for prosecution of the present application.

I. Claims 14-16, 19 and 34-36 drawn to an apparatus for forming a protective film on a surface of a large-sized product, classified in class 118, subclass 72; and

II. Claims 20 and 22-33, drawn to a method of forming a protective film on the surface of a large-sized product, classified in class 29, subclass 458.

It is the Examiner's position that the two defined inventions are distinct and properly subjected to a restriction requirement pursuant to MPEP §806.05(a) because the method as claimed can be practiced by another materially different apparatus, such as an apparatus including means for assembling an engine and functional parts to the paint-finished product.

Upon careful consideration applicant respectfully traverses the restriction requirement, and submits that all of the claims in the application should be concurrently examined in the present application, based on the following.

Initially, applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims in the application are drawn to a single inventive concept, i.e., an efficient method of forming a high quality strippable paint film on a large-sized product such as an automobile and the apparatus for effecting such method, which is reflected in the very similar language used in both the method and apparatus claims.

Relatedly, given the highly similar language used in the method and apparatus claims, the Examiner could concurrently examine all of the claims in the present application "without serious burden", and should accordingly do so pursuant to MPEP §803.

Still further, and with regard to the Examiner's assertion that the claimed method can be practiced by another and materially different apparatus, applicant respectfully submits

that such other apparatus as described by the Examiner is encompassed by claims 35 and 36, and that such claims 35 and 36 are linking claims as discussed in MPEP §806.05(e). The presence of the linking claims is another reason why all of the claims in the application should be concurrently examined together.

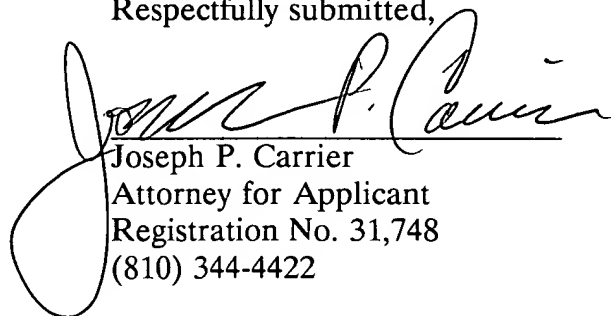
Based on the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests that the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Although applicant traverses the restriction requirement, applicant also provisionally elects with traverse the invention II as defined by the Examiner, including method claims 20 and 22-33.

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on May 22, 1997.

Dated: March 22, 1997  
JPC/jr  
Enclosures

  
Jody Richmond